

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 16, 27 and 34. Please cancel claims 14, 15, 25, 26, 32 and 33.

Please add new claims 35-40. The currently pending claims after amendment are listed below.

1. 1. (Currently Amended) An electronic camera apparatus, comprising:
 2. an electronic optical sensing apparatus, said electronic optical sensing apparatus sensing optical images and converting sensed images to an electronic signal;
 3. a buffer memory;
 4. a video storage medium interface for storing video images captured by said optical sensing apparatus on a storage medium; and
 5. a controller which operates said electronic camera apparatus in at least one mode, said at least one mode including a first mode wherein said controller concurrently causes said video storage medium interface to store motion video captured by said optical sensing apparatus on a video storage medium at a first resolution, and to temporarily store video frames captured by said optical sensing apparatus in said buffer memory, and responsive to a first user command, saves at least one frame from said buffer memory in a persistent form at a second resolution, said second resolution being finer than said first resolution;
 6. wherein said controller, responsive to said first user command, saves a user-selectable portion of the contents of said buffer memory in a persistent form at said second resolution, said user-selectable portion being potentially less than all of the buffer contents; and
 7. wherein said user-selectable portion of the contents of said buffer is determined by playing the contents of said buffer back to the user on a display of said camera, and receiving a user selection corresponding to a beginning frame to be saved in said persistent form.

1 2. (Original) The electronic camera apparatus of claim 1, wherein said electronic optical
2 sensing apparatus, said buffer memory, said video storage medium and said controller are
3 mounted within a common hand-held camera housing.

1 3. (Original) The electronic camera apparatus of claim 1, wherein said electronic optical
2 sensing apparatus is mounted in a housing remote from said buffer memory, said video storage
3 medium and said controller.

1 4. (Original) The electronic camera apparatus of claim 1, wherein said controller comprises
2 a programmable processor executing a control program for controlling the operation of said
3 electronic camera apparatus.

1 5. (Original) The electronic camera apparatus of claim 1, wherein said optical sensing
2 apparatus comprises a charge-coupled device (CCD) array.

1 6. (Original) The electronic camera apparatus of claim 1, wherein said controller operating
2 in said first mode stores each video frame captured by said optical sensing apparatus in said buffer
3 during a respective temporary period.

1 7. (Original) The electronic camera apparatus of claim 1, wherein said controller operating
2 in said first mode stores every Nth video frame captured by said optical sensing apparatus in said
3 buffer during a respective temporary period, where $N > 1$.

1 8. (Original) The electronic camera apparatus of claim 7, wherein N is a user-selectable
2 parameter.

1 9. (Original) The electronic camera apparatus of claim 1, wherein said buffer is organized as
2 at least one circular buffer in which the oldest stored frame is overwritten with a new frame when
3 the new frame is captured.

1 10. (Original) The electronic camera apparatus of claim 9, wherein said buffer is organized as
2 a plurality of circular buffers, each circular buffer storing frames at a respective resolution, a first
3 circular buffer storing frames at a higher resolution than a second circular buffer.

1 11. (Original) The electronic camera apparatus of claim 1, wherein a resolution of frames
2 stored in said buffer is a user-selectable parameter.

1 12. (Original) The electronic camera apparatus of claim 1, wherein said controller, responsive
2 to said first user command, saves the entire contents of said buffer memory in a persistent form at
3 said second resolution.

1 13. (Original) The electronic camera apparatus of claim 1, wherein said controller, responsive
2 to said first user command, saves a fixed portion of the contents of said buffer memory in a
3 persistent form at said second resolution, said fixed portion being less than all of the buffer
4 contents.

14 - 15. (Cancelled)

1 16. (Currently Amended) A method for operating an electronic camera apparatus, comprising
2 the steps of:

3 capturing a sequence of optical images with an electronic optical sensing apparatus;
4 storing motion video images from said sequence of optical images on a motion video
5 storage medium at a first resolution;

6 temporarily storing image data from said sequence of optical images in a buffer, said step
7 of temporarily storing image data being performed concurrently with said step of storing motion
8 video images; and

9 responsive to a user command, saving at least some images from said buffer in a persistent
10 form at a second resolution, said second resolution being finer than said first resolution;

11 wherein said step of saving at least some images from said buffer in a persistent form
12 comprises saving a user-selectable portion of the contents of said buffer memory in a persistent
13 form at said second resolution, said user-selectable portion being potentially less than all of the
14 buffer contents; and

15 wherein said user-selectable portion of the contents of said buffer is determined by playing
16 the contents of said buffer back to the user on a display of said camera, and receiving a user
17 selection corresponding to a beginning frame to be saved in said persistent form.

1 17. (Original) The method for operating an electronic camera apparatus of claim 16, wherein
2 each video frame captured by said optical sensing apparatus is stored in said buffer during a
3 respective temporary period.

1 18. (Original) The method for operating an electronic camera apparatus of claim 16, wherein
2 every Nth video frame captured by said optical sensing apparatus is stored in said buffer during a
3 respective temporary period, where $N > 1$.

1 19. (Original) The method for operating an electronic camera apparatus of claim 18, wherein
2 N is a user-selectable parameter.

1 20. (Original) The method for operating an electronic camera apparatus of claim 16, wherein
2 said buffer is organized as at least one circular buffer in which the oldest stored frame is
3 overwritten with a new frame when the new frame is captured.

1 21. (Original) The method for operating an electronic camera apparatus of claim 20, wherein
2 said buffer is organized as a plurality of circular buffers, each circular buffer storing frames at a
3 respective resolution, a first circular buffer storing frames at a higher resolution than a second
4 circular buffer.

1 22. (Original) The method for operating an electronic camera apparatus of claim 16, wherein
2 a resolution of frames stored in said buffer is a user-selectable parameter.

1 23. (Original) The method for operating an electronic camera apparatus of claim 16, wherein
2 said step of saving at least some images from said buffer in a persistent form comprises saving the
3 entire contents of said buffer memory in a persistent form at said second resolution.

1 24. (Original) The method for operating an electronic camera apparatus of claim 16, wherein
2 said step of saving at least some images from said buffer in a persistent form comprises saving a
3 fixed portion of the contents of said buffer memory in a persistent form at said second resolution,
4 said fixed portion being less than all of the buffer contents.

25 - 26. (Cancelled)

1 27. (Currently Amended) A method for operating an electronic camera apparatus, comprising
2 the steps of:

3 capturing a continuous stream of optical images with an electronic optical sensing
4 apparatus;

5 temporarily storing image data from said continuous stream of optical images in a circular
6 buffer, said circular buffer being continuously overwritten by new image data from said
7 continuous stream of optical images;

8 responsive to a user command, saving at least some image data from said buffer in a
9 persistent form;

10 wherein said step of saving at least some image data from said buffer in a persistent form
11 comprises saving a user-selectable portion of the contents of said buffer memory in a persistent
12 form, said user-selectable portion being potentially less than all of the buffer contents, and

13 wherein said user-selectable portion of the contents of said buffer is determined by playing
14 the contents of said buffer back to the user on a display of said camera, and receiving a user
15 selection corresponding to a beginning frame to be saved in said persistent form.

1 28. (Original) The method for operating an electronic camera apparatus of claim 27, wherein
2 said step of saving at least some image data from said buffer in a persistent form saves at least
3 some frames at a first resolution, said method further comprising the step of:

4 storing motion video from said continuous stream of optical images on a motion video
5 storage medium at a second resolution, said first resolution being finer than said second
6 resolution, said storing motion video step being performed concurrently with said temporarily
7 storing image data step.

1 29. (Original) The method for operating an electronic camera apparatus of claim 27, wherein
2 every Nth video frame captured by said optical sensing apparatus is stored in said circular buffer
3 during a respective temporary period.

1 30. (Original) The method for operating an electronic camera apparatus of claim 29, wherein
2 N is a user-selectable parameter, at least one user-selectable value of N being greater than 1.

1 31. (Original) The method for operating an electronic camera apparatus of claim 27, wherein
2 said step of saving at least some image data from said buffer in a persistent form comprises saving
3 a fixed portion of said buffer memory in a persistent form.

32 - 33. (Cancelled)

1 34. (Currently Amended) A program product for controlling the operation of an electronic
2 camera apparatus, said electronic camera apparatus having an electronic optical sensing apparatus
3 for sensing optical images and converting sensed images to an electronic signal, said program
4 product comprising a plurality of processor executable instructions recorded on signal-bearing
5 media, wherein said instructions, when executed by at least one programmable processor of said
6 electronic camera apparatus, cause the apparatus to perform the steps of:

7 capturing a sequence of optical images with said electronic optical sensing apparatus;

8 storing motion video images from said sequence of optical images on a motion video
9 storage medium at a first resolution;

10 temporarily storing image data from said sequence of optical images in a buffer, said step
11 of temporarily storing image data being performed concurrently with said step of storing motion
12 video images; and

13 responsive to a user command, saving at least some images from said buffer in a persistent
14 form at a second resolution, said second resolution being finer than said first resolution

15 wherein said step of saving at least some images from said buffer in a persistent form
16 comprises saving a user-selectable portion of the contents of said buffer memory in a persistent
17 form at said second resolution, said user-selectable portion being potentially less than all of the
18 buffer contents; and

19 wherein said user-selectable portion of the contents of said buffer is determined by playing
20 the contents of said buffer back to the user on a display of said camera, and receiving a user
21 selection corresponding to a beginning frame to be saved in said persistent form.

1 35. (New) The program product of claim 34, wherein each video frame captured by said
2 optical sensing apparatus is stored in said buffer during a respective temporary period.

1 36. (New) The program product of claim 34, wherein every Nth video frame captured by said
2 optical sensing apparatus is stored in said buffer during a respective temporary period, where $N > 1$.

1 37. (New) The program product of claim 34, wherein said buffer is organized as at least one
2 circular buffer in which the oldest stored frame is overwritten with a new frame when the new
3 frame is captured.

1 38. (New) The program product of claim 37, wherein said buffer is organized as a plurality of
2 circular buffers, each circular buffer storing frames at a respective resolution, a first circular
3 buffer storing frames at a higher resolution than a second circular buffer.

1 39. (New) The program product of claim 34, wherein a resolution of frames stored in said
2 buffer is a user-selectable parameter.

1 40. (New) The program product of claim 34, wherein said step of saving at least some images
2 from said buffer in a persistent form comprises saving the entire contents of said buffer memory
3 in a persistent form at said second resolution.